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1.

conference of DBD delegates held in Potsdam on 4 and 5 July 1953. The delegates were addressed by Hans Reichelt, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, and Berthold Rose, secretary general of the DBD. It was the purpose of the conference to restore the confidence of the farmers in the East German government, to secure a 100 percent delivery of the harvest and to prepare the third conference of the DBD to be held in Berlin on 5 and 6 September 1953.

25X1

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[redacted] the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had considered the dissolution of the Farmers' Production Cooperatives (Landwirtschaftliche Produktionsgenossenschaften) (LPG) but [redacted] it had arrived at the decision to further support the LPGs without, however, neglecting the independent farmers. In order to make the LPGs more acceptable to the independent farmers, these were to be made into model farms. [redacted] the DEB as a party was dependent on the SED, [redacted] it was the sole purpose of the DEB to make available to the SED all the experience it had won in its long-term fight against capitalism. The DEB as the second largest party in East Germany was represented in the government and was therefore obliged to support this government. The prohibition to enrol new members to the DEB had been lifted.

3. Herthold Rose in his speech, allegedly, declared that the government had realized its error in building up a heavy industry at the expense of the worker. It had been resolved to promote the light industry and in the course of this development a stage will be reached where the East German population will be able to buy everything it wants from a nail to a motor car, in the same quality as in West Germany. Before long, the zonal boundaries would be opened. The farmers were asked to support the new policy by maintaining a high production or even increasing it. The party functionaries were requested not to stay at their desks but to go to the villages and increase the confidence of the population in the present government. The so-called whispering campaigns in the villages should be stopped. Open criticism of economic measures taken by the government was a welcome thing; however, vigilance should be used vis-a-vis instigators who

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- 2 -

25X1

were trying to stir up the population. A harmonious co-operation within families and the farms was to be promoted and close connections should be established between industrial enterprises and the IFGs.

25X1

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4. [redacted] the discussions at the conference dealt only with the tonics of the two speeches mentioned. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] Comment. [redacted] the speeches held by Reichelt and Rose in Potsdam [redacted] clearly reflects the compromise between the old dictatorship and a softer line of policy represented by the new course.

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